

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 48 63, wherein each of at least some of the communication outlets said premise-data interface includes a plug for insertion into a modular jack and to be thereby communicably coupled to the premises equipment.

8-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 48 63, wherein the faceplate of at least one of the plurality of communication outlets includes further comprising an analog telephone interface operatively coupled to the bridge circuitry.

14. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 48 63, wherein the faceplate of at least one of the plurality of communication outlets includes further comprising a digital telephone interface operatively coupled to the bridge circuitry.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 33, wherein the at least one high-level service includes data encryption.

17. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 33, wherein the at least one high-level service includes a user authentication.

18. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 33, wherein the at least one high-level service includes a diagnostic and status reporting to the user.

19. ((Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 18, wherein the diagnostic is operative to detect a problem with a connection between the user-data device user-equipment and the communication data outlet, and wherein the status reporting is operative to notify the user of the detected connection problem.

20. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 48 63, each of the plurality of communication outlets further comprises comprising power circuitry operative to received DC power from the data infrastructure or one of the user-data interfaces.

21. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network according to claim 33, wherein the at least one high-level service includes Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services.

22-32. (Cancelled).

33. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 48 63, wherein at least one of the plurality of communication outlets further comprises comprising a processor operative to provide at least one high-level service to the user via at least one of the user-data interfaces.

34. (Currently Amended) A decentralized computer network data outlet according to claim 33, wherein the at least one high level service includes a web service.

35-62. (Cancelled).

63. (New) A data outlet, suitable for connecting user-equipment located in a user-operating area with a premises' data infrastructure, the data outlet comprising:

user interface circuitry providing a plurality of user-data interfaces to said user-equipment, premise interface circuitry providing a premise-data interface to said data infrastructure, and bridge circuitry providing data packet transfer between said user interface circuitry and said premise interface circuitry; and

a housing that (a) is configured of rigid material and has a rear and a front; (b) encloses said user interface circuitry, said premises interface circuitry, and said bridge circuitry, and (c) is mountable in or on a wall adjacent said user-operating area such that said front provides said plurality of user-data interfaces and said rear provides said premise-data interface.